

[MSN Home](#) [My MSN](#) [Hotmail](#) [Shopping](#) [Money](#) [People & Chat](#) [Sign In](#) [Web Search:](#)



Encarta®

>> [Subscribe](#)

[Home](#) | [Encyclopedia](#) | **Dictionary** | [Thesaurus](#) | [Atlas](#) | [Multimedia](#) | [Quizzes](#) | [Upgrade your Encarta Experience](#)

>> [Click here to search all of MSN Encarta](#)

Dictionary

[Find
system](#)

in

Dictionary

[Click here to search all
of MSN Encarta](#)

K-12 Success
K-5 Parents
Homework Help
Online Tutoring

College-Grad
College Prep
2006 Rankings
Grad & Biz

[Advertisement](#)

[Dictionary](#) [Thesaurus](#) [Translations *](#)

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

system

[systems](#)

sys·tem [sɪstəm] (plural sys·tems)

noun

Definitions:

1. **complex whole formed from related parts:** a combination of related parts organized into a complex whole
 - *a social system*
2. **set of principles:** a scheme of ideas or principles by which something is organized
 - *the democratic system*
 - *the metric system*
3. **way of proceeding:** a method or set of procedures for achieving something
 - *I have worked out a system for identifying likely failures.*
4. **orderliness:** the use or result of careful planning and organization
 - *There doesn't seem to be any system in his working methods.*
5. **established social organization:** the established social order, especially when

syrtaki
Syrtis Major
syrup
syrupy
SYS
sysop
syst.
systaltic
▶ **system**
system building
system operator
system software
systematic
systematic desensitization
systematics
systematise
systematism

[Print Preview](#)

See pronunciation key

Search for "system" in all of MSN Encarta

Download the MSN Encarta Right-Click

Also on Encarta

- Today in history
- Brain-teasing quizzes
- Compare online degrees
- College prep & admissions
- Train for a better career
- Top 10 lists

Our Partners

- Book bargains on MSN Shopping
- ClassesUSA.com: Compare online classes
- CollegeBound Teen magazine: For teens
- hq|education: Career education
- Kaplan Test Prep and Admissions
- The Princeton Review
- Sylvan Learning

Also on MSN

- The First Emperor on the Discov

MSN Encarta - Dictionary - system definition

Page 2 of 3

Dictionary

regarded as oppressive
 • *You can't beat the system.*

6. whole body: the human or animal body as a unit
 • *foods that are not good for the system*

7. group of related body parts: a set of organs or structures in the body that have a common function
 • *the nervous system*

8. COMPUT set of computer components: an assembly of computer hardware, software, and peripherals functioning together
 • *The system's down again.*

9. ENGINEERING assembly of components: an assembly of mechanical or electronic components that function together as a unit

10. TRANSPORTATION transport network: a physical network of roads, railways, and other routes for travel, transport, or communication

11. ASTRONOMY group of astronomical objects: a group of astronomical objects or other gravitationally linked objects

12. MINERALS mineral classification: a division used in the classification of minerals according to their crystal structures

13. GEOLOGY classification of rocks according to date: a division of rocks larger than a series but smaller than a stage, used to distinguish formations of a specific era or period

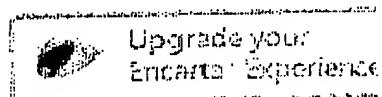
14. SCIENCE assembly of substances in equilibrium: an assembly of substances in chemical or physical equilibrium

15. MUSIC group of musical staves: a number of musical staves that are grouped together by a line or brace in a score and are played simultaneously

- MSN Shopping: The best in holid online
- MSN Careers: Nail that job inter

MSN Shopping

MSN Shopping



[Early 17th century. Directly or via French
< late Latin *systema* < Greek *systēma* <
sunistanai "combine" < *histanai* "set up"]

- **sys·tem·lessadj**

all systems go used to indicate that
everything is functioning and an operation
or activity can start (*informal*)

Encarta® World English Dictionary [North American Edition] © & (P)2005
Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved. Developed for Microsoft by
Bloomsbury Publishing Plc.

© 2005 Microsoft MSN Privacy Legal Advertise